

Claims

1. ~~(-)-cis-4-Amino-1-(2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-oxathiolane-5-yl)-(1H)-pyrimidin-2-one or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.~~
2. ~~A compound as claimed in Claim 1 substantially free of the corresponding (+)-enantiomer.~~
3. ~~A compound as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of no more than about 5% w/w.~~
4. ~~A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of no more than about 2% w/w.~~
5. ~~A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the (+)-enantiomer is present in an amount of less than about 1% w/w.~~
6. ~~A compound as claimed in Claim 1 in substantially pure form.~~
7. ~~A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.~~
8. ~~A compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 for use in therapy.~~
9. ~~Use of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a viral infection.~~
10. ~~A method for the treatment of a mammal, including man, suffering from or susceptible to viral infection comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6.~~

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11. A method for the preparation of a compound as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 which comprises separation of the (-)-enantiomer from a mixture also containing the (+)-enantiomer.
12. A method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the mixture of compounds is a racemic mixture.
13. A method as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12 the separation is effected by chiral HPLC.
14. A method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the HPLC employs as a stationary phase acetylated  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin or cellulose triacetate.
15. A method as claimed ~~in Claim 11 or Claim 12~~ wherein the separation is effected by enzyme-mediated enantioselective catabolism.
16. A method is claimed in Claim 15 wherein the enzyme is employed in immobilised form.
17. A method as claimed ~~in Claim 15 or Claim 16~~ wherein the enzyme is cytidine deaminase.
18. A method as claimed ~~in Claim 15 or Claim 16~~ wherein the enzyme is a 5'-nucleotidase.

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